



January 26, 2005

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Ms. Karen Armes, Acting Regional Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX
1111 Broadway Street, Suite 1200
Oakland, California 94607

Dear Mr. President,

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. section 5121 et seq. (the Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster to exist for the State of California, in the counties of Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura, as a result of heavy rainfall, snow, mudslides, flooding and storm-related debris flow commencing on or about December 28, 2004, and continuing.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under state law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. I proclaimed a state of emergency for Ventura County on January 12, 2005, and for Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Santa Barbara Counties on January 15, 2005.

On January 15, 2005, I requested a joint federal, state and local Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA). Assessments began on January 18, 2005. The survey of the damaged areas indicates approximately \$235 million in damage to public facilities; approximately 60 percent of this is related to debris removal, roads, and water facilities. Approximately 1,200 homes sustained some damage, and 215 were destroyed or suffered major damage. In addition, 13 businesses

suffered major damage or were destroyed and another 49 sustained minor damage or were affected.

Beginning on December 28, 2004, a series of snow and rainstorms struck California causing widespread flooding and mudslides. Many areas of the state received the equivalent of a full season of rainfall within a few days. Impacts were particularly severe from Kern County south

to San Diego County. Storm impacts and damage are widespread throughout the eight-county area. Flooding, debris and mudflows damaged numerous roads, bridges, culverts, public buildings and parks. According to the Insurance Information Institute, more than 15,400 claims have been filed with insurance companies due to storm damage and this number is expected to increase. There has also been extensive crop damage, particularly in Ventura County.

Seventeen fatalities occurred as a direct result of flooding or landslides including the ten victims in the La Conchita mudslide. One person remains missing in the San Antonio Reservoir in Ventura County. Storm-related traffic accidents claimed an additional seven lives. These storms occurred in the same area as the 2003 Southern California Wildfires (FEMA-1498-DR) and the thousands of residents in these burn areas face imminent danger of further flooding, landslides, debris and mudflows as long as the rainy season continues.

The counties and many cities activated their Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). The mutual aid system mobilized local government heavy and medium rescue teams from nearby counties to assist with rescues in the La Conchita landslide area. Local government swift water rescue teams conducted rescues in San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties. Local agencies worked around the clock to remove debris to allow roads to reopen and also cleared drainage channels. In addition to local resources, more than 168 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and California Conservation Corps employees were mission-tasked by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) to help local government fight flooding.

The OES Southern Regional Emergency Operations Center and the State Operations Center at OES headquarters were fully staffed 24 hours a day. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) provided technical assistance and flood-fighting equipment to affected local governments and facilitated Public Law 84-99 assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to clear debris basins.

More than 300 highways and local roads were closed for varying lengths of time during the storms. Closures included Interstate 5 in Kern and Los Angeles Counties and US 101 in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Multiple State Routes remain closed or severely restricted, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) continues to escort residents in and out of areas that sustained extensive road damage. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has been securing emergency contracts and making repairs to on-system roads on a 24-hour basis. I issued Executive Order S-1-05 for the proclaimed counties and directed Caltrans to pursue Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding to repair eligible road damage.

Authorities ordered mandatory evacuations in several counties. More than 5,500 residents were evacuated due to three separate events involving potential dam or creek bank failures. Residents

of the La Conchita community in Ventura County remain evacuated due to landslide damage, threat of continued landslide movement, and utility outages. Stream and river flooding resulted in mandatory evacuations of other neighborhoods, mobile home parks, and campgrounds. Residents in several communities in Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties were isolated due to mudslides and road washouts, necessitating provision of food, water and medical supplies by airdrops. Voluntary evacuations were recommended in all eight counties, and shelters were open to support the mandatory and voluntary evacuations. As of January 24, 2005, one community in Los Angeles County remained isolated.

Without past mitigation efforts, damages certainly would have been worse. Projects implemented as a result of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) prevented significant damages throughout southern California from the 2005 winter storms. The HMGP has provided over \$30 million dollars to southern California communities for the implementation of 38 flood mitigation projects. During the storm event, OES contacted these communities and received an overwhelmingly positive response indicating that mitigation projects performed as designed, therefore, increasing the level of protection to people and improved property.

An Orange County official reported to OES that the community of Rossmore would have certainly flooded without implementation of its mitigation project. This \$2 million project prevented over \$8 million in direct damages. The Riverside County Flood Control District constructed Nason Detention basin to detain floodwater and regulate outflows. This basin prevented damage during the recent storms to facilities, roads, and schools that were significantly impacted during the 1992-1993 rainy season. Using HMGP funds, the City of Hesperia in San Bernardino County, constructed Mission/Alston and Rodeo channels. Prior to the implementation of these mitigation projects, the city experienced significant repetitive damage during each rainy season. City representatives reported to OES that these projects prevented damage to public and private property and, additionally, there were no road closures due to the recent storms.

The state is still recovering from a series of recent disasters. In October 2003, the Southern California Wildfires (FEMA-1498-DR) proved to be the most destructive in the state's history. The San Simeon Earthquake (FEMA-1505-DR) followed soon thereafter in December 2003. The Jones Tract Levee Break (FEMA-1529-DR) joined these other events in June 2004. Additionally, the state received 14 Fire Management Assistance Grants from FEMA for the last fire season, 33 Small Business Administration declarations and 32 designations from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

PDA results for Public Assistance are tabulated in Enclosure A. Estimates of assistance for Individual Assistance are summarized in Enclosure B. Our best estimate for other federal assistance programs is summarized in Enclosure C. I certify that for this major disaster, the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal share of costs required by the

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Stafford Act. Total state and local expenditures for federal Public Assistance are expected to exceed \$58,858,333 in accordance with the table in Enclosure D.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response and recovery efforts are beyond the current capabilities of the state and the affected local governments and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary. Accordingly, I am specifically requesting Individual Assistance, including the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), Crisis Counseling, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation and any other Stafford Act programs as appropriate for the Counties of Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura. In addition, the state requests implementation of the Small Business Administration disaster loan program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Emergency Loan Program.

I understand that the number of homes and businesses destroyed or suffering major damage is somewhat less than the guideline used by FEMA to assess Individual Assistance eligibility for a state the size of California. However, the traumatic nature of storm related deaths, the relatively low rate of insurance in some of the most severely impacted communities, and the lack of other assistance programs has led me to request implementation of individual assistance programs for this disaster.

I am also forwarding you a copy of a declaration of an emergency issued by the Pechanga Indian Reservation located in Riverside County. The reservation has been informed that they must apply directly to FEMA for any assistance that is made available.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety. Pursuant to Sections 407 and 502 of the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. §5173(b) and 5192), the state agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris for this disaster. The state agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

Furthermore, in accordance with the federal State Management of Small Disasters Initiative (SMSDI), OES is requesting authorization to manage the Public Assistance program for these storms. This disaster meets the definition of a small disaster, in accordance with FEMA criteria. OES has the capability to meet the staffing needs based upon historic data for similar storms that have occurred in the past. FEMA resources are stretched thin due to the response to multiple major recovery efforts. OES has experience with three Federal disaster declarations in the past eighteen months. A disaster-specific addendum to the State Administrative Plan identifying staffing and other resource requirements necessary for budgeting and proper program management/implementation for the disaster will follow separately.

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I have designated Mr. Henry R. Renteria, Director of OES, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will coordinate with FEMA to complete damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

/cab

ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance
Stafford Act

CATEGORY

| County | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | Total |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Kern | \$81,500 | \$157,000 | \$142,000 | | \$254,500 | | \$150,000 | \$785,500 |
| Los Angeles | \$17,973,222 | \$9,975,698 | \$30,841,895 | \$10,442,230 | \$10,357,135 | \$5,559,089 | \$16,311,936 | \$101,461,205 |
| Orange | \$270,000 | \$4,902,500 | \$510,000 | \$5,058,187 | \$23,000 | \$1,5117,000 | \$151,000 | \$12,431,687 |
| Riverside | \$347,050 | \$1,228,355 | \$4,412,750 | \$2,757,700 | \$193,690 | \$845,000 | \$278,500 | \$10,063,045 |
| San Bernardino | \$18,386,802 | \$782,652 | \$5,105,936 | \$8,283,500 | \$587,500 | \$904,768 | \$10,218,000 | \$44,269,158 |
| San Diego | \$4,100,257 | \$262,626 | \$8,742,842 | \$1,354,012 | \$640,700 | \$60,500 | \$480,100 | \$15,641,037 |
| Santa Barbara | \$4,314,310 | \$1,665,998 | \$11,226,500 | \$885,200 | \$66,080 | \$427,644 | \$1,484,000 | \$20,069,732 |
| Ventura | \$2,780,500 | \$333,500 | \$6,621,000 | \$5,421,050 | \$85,500 | \$5,677,000 | \$56,500 | \$20,975,050 |
| State Agencies | \$220,000 | \$1,206,360 | \$1,174,492 | | \$36,800 | \$540,000 | \$6,559,263 | \$9,736,915 |
| Totals: | \$48,473,641 | \$20,514,689 | \$68,777,915 | \$34,201,879 | \$12,244,905 | \$15,531,001 | \$35,689,299 | \$235,433,329 |
| Federal Share (75%) | | | | | | | | \$176,574,997 |

Note: Estimates are to reflect total eligible costs before any cost sharing.

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance
under the Stafford Act

| County (List each requested county) | Assistance to Individuals and Households | | | | | Other Programs (Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Legal Services, and Crisis Counseling) |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| | Temporary Housing | Repairs | Replacement | Permanent Housing Construction | Other Needs Assistance | |
| Kern | \$3,300 | \$52,000 | | | \$13,200 | |
| Los Angeles | \$316,800 | \$2,854,800 | \$346,500 | | \$774,000 | \$300,000 |
| Orange | \$6,600 | \$364,000 | | | \$86,400 | \$10,000 |
| Riverside | \$3,300 | \$83,200 | \$10,500 | | \$20,400 | \$2,000 |
| San Bernardino | \$75,900 | \$176,800 | \$63,000 | | \$69,600 | \$3,000 |
| San Diego | \$19,800 | \$52,000 | \$10,500 | | \$19,200 | |
| Santa Barbara | \$6,600 | \$104,000 | | | \$26,400 | |
| Ventura | \$303,600 | \$1,310,400 | \$220,500 | | \$422,400 | \$350,000 |
| TOTALS | \$735,900 | \$4,997,200 | \$651,000 | N/A | \$1,431,600 | \$665,000 |

ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

| County | SBA Home Loans | SBA Business Loans | FSA Loans | NRCS | FHWA | USACE | OTHER |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Kern | \$350,000 | | | | | | |
| Los Angeles | \$29,000,000 | \$300,000 | \$100,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$51,300,000 | | |
| Orange | \$3,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | | | \$7,500,000 | \$1,800,000 | |
| Riverside | \$800,000 | \$200,000 | \$150,000 | | \$4,300,000 | | |
| San Bernardino | \$2,700,000 | \$2,400,000 | | \$2,000,000 | \$15,100,000 | | |
| San Diego | \$700,000 | | \$464,300 | \$1,000,000 | \$4,600,000 | | |
| Santa Barbara | \$1,000,000 | | \$500,000 | | \$19,700,000 | \$6,000,000 | |
| Ventura | \$16,000,000 | \$800,000 | \$9,000,000 | \$5,000,000 | \$22,600,000 | | |
| Totals | \$53,600,000 | \$4,700,000 | \$10,000,000 | \$9,000,000 | \$125,100,000 | \$7,800,000 | |

Note: Provide numbers and amounts, as appropriate.

ENCLOSURE D TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

| CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE | AMOUNT | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| | STATE | LOCAL |
| Individual Assistance: | \$1,953,925 | \$0 |
| "Other Assistance" under the Individuals and Households Program | \$0 | \$0 |
| Other (specify) <i>State Supplemental Grant Program</i> | \$500,000 | \$0 |
| Total: | \$2,453,925 | \$0 |
| Public Assistance: | | |
| Category A - Debris Removal | \$9,102,558 | \$3,015,853 |
| Category B – Emergency Protective Measures | \$3,921,902 | \$1,206,771 |
| Category C – Roads and Bridges | \$12,969,265 | \$4,225,214 |
| Category D – Water Control Facilities | \$6,412,852 | \$2,137,617 |
| Category E – Buildings and Equipment | \$2,298,220 | \$763,007 |
| Category F – Utilities | \$2,945,813 | \$936,938 |
| Category G – Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.) | \$6,559,299 | \$1,820,627 |
| Total: | \$44,752,306 | \$14,106,026 |
| Grand Total: | \$47,206,231 | \$14,106,026 |